

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

April 19, 2020

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters**
Custodian Steve White

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:13-9	1 Peter 1:17-23
John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsively)

Jesus' life and ministry, his death and resurrection,
and the story and experience of Easter
teach of the immense dimensions of God's grace,

**a grace that enfolds with comfort and healing,
peace and promise, hope and nurture, life and death.**

As we acknowledge and imagine all of that,
we remember as well—

there's always more.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.***

***And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock,
in whom I trust."***

There is room for all, there is room for all!

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We remember who we are.

We come as we are, with questions and doubts.

We gather to be reminded what actually makes our hearts glad.

We come, seeking paths of life and fullness of joy.

We gather as part of God's family,

aware of those no longer living and those missing.

We come in hope.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN – "Come, Children, Join to Sing" – VU #345

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!

Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!

Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!

Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!

Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!

The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,
singing for ever more: Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Kyrie Eleison (Guarani)" – MV #68

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

O God have mercy, O God have mercy,

O God have mercy, have mercy on us.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

SINGING A SONG – “We Are the Church” – AGCS #84

(Revised for COVID-19 pandemic)

Refrain

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

Refrain

And during times of trouble,
when we must stay apart,
I'm sending you all air hugs,
Spring rainbows on the double!

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

HYMN – “Blessed Assurance” – VU #337

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain

*This is my story this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

-3-

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SOLO – “Because He Lives”

Emma Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jini Palmer

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**God of Life,
we offer portions of our labours, talents, and time.
May they be used to provide life, hope, and joy
to all in need—no matter where they may be.
Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS – “Holy Spirit” – MV #75

*Holy Spirit, come to us,
Kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us.
Holy Spirit, come to us.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (responsively)

R: Hear our prayer, Holy One—and guide us.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN – "Be Still, My Soul" – VU #652

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
through storm ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH

*As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that's made for you,
And it's all because of Easter—
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!*

See Gathering Lent 2011 pg. 81 "Choral Sending Forth"
(Tune Promise VU 703)

*Hope
is some extraordinary spiritual grace
that God gives us to control our fears,
not to oust them.
~Vincent McNabb~*

Announcements

The bulletin today is in loving memory of
Dorothy M, Thomas W & Keith
by the Scott Family.

The Bathurst Volunteer Centre depends on the generosity of members of the congregation of First United Church to supply it with 900 jars of peanut butter yearly. Because of the restrictions put in place regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, our donations have dropped off considerably. It is our feeling that those who want to continue donating peanut butter during this time can best do it by making out a cheque to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre and sending it directly to the centre at 464 King Avenue, Bathurst, NB, E2A 1P5. It should be clearly marked First United Church Peanut Butter in the lower left corner so that the peanut butter purchased by the centre can be credited to the church. The need is real.

*Hope
is putting faith to work
when doubting would be easier.
~Author Unknown~*

John 20:19-31 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.